

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 598

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joseph Robert Jones of  
Auburntown.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly honor and commend the memory of  
Joseph Robert "J.R." Jones; and

WHEREAS, J.R. Jones was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional  
who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous  
capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was a loyal veteran of the United States Army, who earned the respect  
of his fellow servicemen and civilians alike for his commitment to his community and his country;  
and

WHEREAS, the youngest of seven children, he was born in Auburntown to William  
Henry Jones and Elvira King Jones; and

WHEREAS, J.R. Jones graduated from Auburn High School and, in 1967, enlisted in the  
U. S. Army, where he served for more than two years in Vietnam, beginning in maintenance  
before acting as door gunner and crew chief; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones provided maintenance for the famous Caspar Aviation Platoon,  
173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade; the first U.S. Army ground unit committed to the Vietnam War, the  
platoon performed Command and Control aircraft missions on behalf of the Brigade and  
Battalion commanders and executed psychological operations, aerial bombing missions, aero  
scout missions, artillery fire adjustment, convoy control, bomb damage assessment, re-supply,  
and medical evaluations; and

WHEREAS, due to the invaluable expertise and dedication of J.R. Jones and his  
maintenance crew, the Caspar Aviation Platoon was able to provide constant twenty-four hour  
aviation support to ground troops and achieve great success in its many Vietnam missions; and

WHEREAS, a decorated veteran, who earned his Parachutists Wings and Aviators Wings, Mr. Jones's valiant acts of heroism were rewarded with the Purple Heart and Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from Vietnam, he reenlisted in the U.S. Army and continued to serve his country with ardent loyalty until 1979; and

WHEREAS, J.R. Jones and his wife, Marilyn Dyer Cox, made a beautiful life together in Dallas and became devout members of the First Baptist Church, where Mr. Jones was actively involved in the Sanctuary Choir and personal evangelism; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his church activities, he was a licensed pilot and maintained a strong passion for aviation, enjoying a long and successful career in aircraft maintenance, refurbishment, and brokerage; and

WHEREAS, he was also a devoted family man, who was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Candace Melinda Jones; his brother, Van Carroll Jones; and his step-father, Claude Clayborn; and

WHEREAS, a loving and faithful patriarch, Mr. Jones was survived by his wife, Marilyn Jones; his daughter, Christen Jones Roller; his step-daughter, Stacy Fuqua; his step-son, Ryan Cox; his sisters, Nannie Jones Street, Frances Jones Lanier, and Mary Jones Kelly; his brothers, William King Jones and, at the time of his death, Henry Rich Jones; his seven grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, J.R. Jones has left behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant, soldier, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Joseph Robert Jones, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.